

Mondavi Center Arts Education

19-20 CUE Sheet for Teachers

Alexander String Quartet

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

11AM | VANDERHOEF STUDIO THEATRE

Recommended for grades 6–12

Visual & Performing Arts Standards

The newly revised California Arts Standards provide guidance toward a common goal: for all California students to fully participate in a rich and well-rounded arts education. The standards are based on the **artistic processes of creating; performing/producing/presenting; responding; and connecting**. Our school matinees correspond to **responding** and **connecting**.

6-Adv.MU:Re7.1; 6-8.MU:Re7.2.a;
6-8.MU:Re7.2.b; 6-8.MU:Re8; 6-8.MU:Re9;
6-8.MU:Cn10; 6-8.MU:Cn11; Nov-Adv.MU:H.
Re8; Nov-Adv.MU:H.Re9; Nov-Adv.MU:H.Cn10;
Nov-Adv.MU:H.Cn11; Nov-Adv.MU:E.Re7.1;
Nov-Adv.MU:E.Re7.2; Nov-Adv.MU:E.Re8;
Nov-Adv.MU:E.Re9; Nov-Adv.MU:E.Cn10;
Nov-Adv.MU:E.Cn11

Common Core

The Common Core broadens the definition of a “text,” viewing performance as a form of text, so students are experiencing and interacting with a text when they attend a performance. Seeing live performance provides rich opportunities to write reflections, narratives, arguments, etc.

RL.4-12.2; RL.4-12.3; RL.4-12.6; RI.4-12.2;
RI.4-12.3; SL.4-12.2



About Alexander String Quartet

Combined with a thoughtful sharing of insights on their musical selections and stringed instruments, the Alexander String Quartet will play a variety of works to highlight the unique sounds and personality of classical compositions. These friendly, informative and gifted musicians return to our school matinee program to share their love of classical music with students of all ages. Following the matinee, students are encouraged to ask questions.

A major artistic presence in San Francisco, the Alexander String Quartet was formed in New York City in 1981 and captured international attention as the first American quartet to win the London International String Quartet Competition in 1985. Since 1989, the quartet has served as ensemble-in-residence for San Francisco Performances and directors of the Morrison Chamber Music Center in the College of Liberal and Creative Arts at San Francisco State University.

Zakarias Grafilo – Violin 1

Zakaris Grafilo received his early musical training at the preparatory division of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from San Francisco State University.

Frederick Lifszitz – Violin 2

Frederick Lifszitz studied violin in his native Boston with Marylou Churchill and at Indiana University with Paul Biss.

Sandy Wilson – Cello

A native of Northumberland, England, Sandy Wilson completed his graduate studies at the Royal Danish Conservatory in Copenhagen. In 1979, Wilson moved to the United States, completing a degree at Yale University.

Paul Yarbrough – Viola

Paul Yarbrough is a native of Clearwater, Florida. His teachers have included Elaine Lee Richey, Lillian Fuchs, Raymond Page and Sally Peck.

Learn More:

Alexander String Quartet website (www.asq4.com)

Video: Alexander String Quartet on the art of teaching
(www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=roldL4-BL1U)

Think About It

Dear Students,

- 1 **Before the performance:** Will this be your first time watching a string quartet play? What do you expect?
- 2 **During the performance:** Without a conductor, how do the artists communicate with each other while playing?
- 3 **After the performance:** Describe what you heard. Did any of the music selections seem to tell a story or set a mood?



MC Fun Facts:

- The outside walls of the Mondavi Center are made from sandstone from India that is 1.8 billion years old.
- What look like fossils in the sandstone tiles, are really iron and manganese crystal dendrites.
- The building sits on 200 pillars to keep the sounds and vibrations of the freeway and trains from being heard or felt inside the theater.
- There are hot water pipes running underneath the Vanderhoef Studio Theatre that heat the floor, so that performers (especially dancers) can more easily warm up.

What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:

- To facilitate starting the performance on time, get a drink of water and use the restroom before entering the seating area.
- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your seats immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating).
- Show courtesy to the artists and other guests at all times.
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artists' work by applauding.
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements.
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theatre.
- Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience.
- Please do not photograph or record the artists.

Please no talking during the show.

A theatre is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theatres are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience, whispering, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these disrupt everyone's concentration and can spoil a performance.

Watch attentively.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. By watching attentively the audience shows respect for the performers. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. For instance, while the audience at a dance performance may sit quietly, other types of performances may invite audience participation.

Show appreciation by applauding.

Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Mondavi Center Arts Education

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2019–20 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.

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Support provided by



Les and Mary Stephens DeWall



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